

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Following is a marked-up version of each amended paragraph of the subject patent application. The Examiner is requested to delete the indicated paragraph and replace it with the amended paragraph. The location for each of the deleted and replaced paragraphs is also indicated.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 29, and ending on page 2, line 2, as follows:

Telephony switches, which transfer voice samples in the form of digital signals between the calling and the called party, are circuit-switched devices. That is, control information sent separately from the voice samples is required to set up the path from the source to the destination. Further, this circuit path ~~remain~~ remains uniquely dedicated to the call for the entire call duration.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 8, line 3, and ending on page 8, line 21, as follows:

At a step 60, detection of a system fault initiates a swap of the active and standby switches. For example, the swapping process is initiated by a redundancy management processor (not shown) that monitors the hardware elements of the line cards 20, 22, 24 and 26, the switch fabrics 12 and 14, the interconnections between these components and the flow of traffic into and out of the switch fabrics 12 and 14. Whenever a failure or fault condition that may be alleviated by a switch fabric swap is detected, at a step 62 the redundancy management processor broadcasts the swap message to all the line cards 20, 22, 24 and 26 and to the switch fabrics 12 and 14. Although the broadcast message is sent to all line cards in the network, it is not necessarily received synchronously at each one. One example of a technique that can be employed to signal the line cards 20, 22, 24 and 26 that a switch-over is required, and is further described and claimed in the commonly-owned United States Patent Application entitled, "Method for Encoding/Decoding a Binary Signal State in a Fault Tolerant Environment," filed on December 21, 2001, _____ and assigned application serial number 10/026,353 _____, which is hereby incorporated by reference. (Attorney's docket number 124174).

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 11, line 8, and ending on page 11, line 21, as follows:

It should be noted that although the present invention avoids the loss of data during the swapping of the active and standby switches, there may be certain situations where data will be lost nonetheless. These situations are beyond the scope and purview of the present invention. For example, data on a faulty line card or on a faulty path within the switch fabric, either of which could trigger the switchover process, will most likely be lost. Also, as data traffic accumulates in the input line buffer while the switches are executing the swapping process, the buffer management process may discard some of the stored data. This cannot be avoided by the process of the present invention, which is intended to prevent the loss of data between non-faulty switch devices. Additionally, the present invention provides a completely lossless switchover in the event of an administrative switch swap action. Unrelated action unrelated to any failure in the system.